The Conference covered a wide range of topics on safety, health and environment including policy legislation, chemical emergency prevention, preparedness and response etc. The main recommendations/conclusions of the Conference are:

(i) APOSHO standards for Occupational Safety and Health should be developed and adopted by the member Countries.

(ii) There should be net working arrangements at different levels for information sharing.

(iii) Comprehensive guidelines for environment care may be developed and circulated and national policies and laws need to be reviewed with a view to introducing a comprehensive legislation.

(iv) Trade Unions should be involved and taken into confidence at the planning stage itself to ensure harmony and excellent results in the field of safety.

Proposal for Marking Ex-Factory Price on Commodities

698. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering/examining the feasibility of indicating the ex-factory price of commodities on packages to deal with the problem of marking of inflated prices by manufacturers on some commodities, in the shape of maximum retail prices;

(b) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices have conducted any survey to see that excise duty concessions announced in the 1995-96 budget were being passed on to the consumers; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CIVIL SUPPLIES) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) the Ministry has constituted an Expert Committee to suggest the best method of declaring retail sale price on pre-packed commodities under the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977. The issue of indicating the 'ex-factory price' on the packages, is one of the alternatives being considered by the Committee.

(b) and (c) A sample study on certain select items conducted by the BICP reveals that, out of the units surveyed among the selected industries, in the case of 8 items the excise/customs duty concessions have been passed on fully, and in the case of 7 items they have been passed on partially, whereas in the case of 2 items the concessions have not been passed on.

Loss in BCCL

699. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "BCCL in a sorry condition" which appeared in Pioneer dated 7-11-95;

(b) if so, whether BCCL has been declared sick and referred to BIFR;

(c) if so, the total losses suffered by BCCL during the last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by Government to bring down the losses of BCCL?